

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/945,094	ZHANG, XUEMEI	
	Examiner Nhan T. Tran	Art Unit 2615	

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 9/30/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5, 7-10, 14 and 18-29.
3. The drawings filed on 30 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see amendment, filed 9/30/2004, with respect to claims 1-3, 14, 18, 20-21, 23-25 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of these claims are withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 14 & 18-29 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all limitations of claim 1 that includes "...computing scale factors for other channel of the pixel, the scale factors computed according to fixed offset values and values of the first color channel before and after the tone mapping function is applied, the fixed offset values offsetting the effect of noise in calculating the scale factors; and applying the scale factors to the other color channels of the pixels."

Regarding claims 2-3, 5, 7-10, these claims are dependent of claim 1.

Regarding claim 18, the prior art of record also fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all limitations of claim 18 that includes "...computing scale factors for other channels of the pixels, and applying the scale factors to the other color channels of the pixels;

wherein the scale factors are computed according to noise balancing terms and changes in values of the first color channel, and wherein the first color channel most closely matches relative luminance response of the human visual system.”

Regarding claims 14, 19-20, 24, 26, 27, these claims are dependent of claim 18.

Regarding claim 21, the prior art of record also fails to teach or fairly suggest the combination of all limitations of claim 21 that includes “...computing scale factors for other channels of the pixels, the scale factors computed according to noise balancing terms and values of the first color channel before and after applying the function, the processing further including applying the scale factors to the other color channels of the pixels; wherein the first color channel most closely matches relative luminance response of the human visual system.”

Regarding claims 22-23, 25, 28-29, these claims are dependent of claim 21.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhan T. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 605-4246. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew B Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NT.



ANDREW CHRISTENSEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600